

The Giants played in the spotlight of the IHSAA throughout this impressive season. Under the leadership of Head Coach James Blackmon, the team finished the season with a remarkable record of 23–7. Coach Blackmon, who is a Marion High School graduate and had an impressive basketball career himself, returned to Marion to coach the team in 2013. Coach Blackmon leads by example and inspires his players with his coaching and character. He works tirelessly to motivate, train, and push his team to dream big and reach their goals. As the daughter of a high school football coach, I understand the tireless dedication, time commitment, and personal sacrifices required to lead young athletes to victory, and I applaud Coach Blackmon's dedication to excellence.

While their 8th consecutive state title is momentous on its own, what the Giants basketball team accomplished during the state championship was even more extraordinary than that. The Giants broke records for highest combined 3-point field goal percentage, most points scored in a quarter, scoring 31 points in the 3rd quarter alone, and most points in a half, scoring 48 points total in the second half. In addition to the Giants' significant team accomplishments, individuals from the team were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions and accomplishments. Senior Reggie Jones tied the record for highest individual free-throw percentage, making 100 percent of his free throws during the state championship game. Reggie was also named the Chronicle-Tribune's Boys Basketball Player of the Year, selected to be one of Hoosier Basketball Magazine's Top 60 Senior Boys' Basketball Players, and was chosen for the IBCA/ Subway Senior All-State Team. Additionally, Reggie, along with senior teammate Vijay Blackmon and junior Tim Leavell were selected to play on the All-NCC 1st team.

Throughout the years, the Giants have demonstrated incredible dedication to their sport—putting in countless hours on the court and the weight room. They have been supported by their committed parents, coaches, and trainers. High school sports are a special experience. They teach discipline, build character, and allow young men and women to have an experience they will remember for a lifetime. This team exemplifies the wonderful attributes that high school sports teach, and I am proud to represent such a hardworking and highly regarded group of young men and coaches.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th Congressional District, I'd like to extend huge congratulations to the Marion High School Boys' Basketball Team. I look forward to cheering the team on through another great season next year and send my best wishes as the Giants work toward breaking the record for most consecutive wins. Go Giants.

**HONORING THE PERMIAN BASIN
HONOR FLIGHT**

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 90 Veterans from West Texas who will be visiting our Washington D.C. this week, sponsored by the Permian Basin Honor Flight.

On behalf of a grateful state and nation, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight are: Richard Galloway, Darrell Sanders, Clinton Adams, Mike Barber, Jerry Pinkston, SFC Aaron Hernandez, Dennis Sever, Jimmy L. Fine, Benny B. Fine, Alejos Rios Lara, Ira E. Wilson, Larry J. Monroe, Helen A. Bird, Jackie Lee Voss, Gary Clayton Collinworth, Charles R. Sessions, Jimmy G. George, James R. Priest, Lowell D. Wade Jr., Horace L. Bowden, Margaret Voisel Forster, Larry K. Bagley, Donald E. Gorden Jr., Domingo Carrizales, James Miller, Paul W. Janssen, David P. Brockman, Robert L. Neff, James H. Silvers, Robert S. Thames, Bobbie R. Kerrigan, Rolland L. Rose, Gary W. Ward, Roscoe C. Haynes, Leonard C. Martinez, Donald R. Price, Luis R. Lopez, Gene A. Roberts, Melvin M. Longwell Jr., James H. Shaw, Ricky A. Warnick, Curtis D. McClain, Billie G. Mathis, James F. Kemper, Billie Ray Norman, Willard C. Walker, Jerome J. Engler, Stephen L. McConnell, Dock R. Clark, David H. Box, John W. Calhoun, Garland D. Pearce, Charles R. McMillian, Thomas E. Mindling, John Gutierrez Alderete, David A. Dixon, Robert L. Kasper, Warren J. Lange, James V. Yakshaw, Tom D. Dodd, William E. Halfmann, Donald E. McClure, Johnny A. Wright, Robert C. Schlagal, Steven D. Rea, Juan Tarin, David Madrid, John M. Williams, Ronnie M. Nunley, Richard Cotte, Mark D. Kator, Jimmie K. Matthews, Milton R. Williamson, James L. White, Robert L. Teters, Steven W. Wagner, Roberto Martinez, Michael G. Roquemore, Mark E. Webb, Harry A. Spannaus, James W. Huston, Michael D. Jackson, Kenneth D. Carte, Michael W. Griffis, John R. Hayes, Edward Comacho, and Duane Janssen.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to have the opportunity to meet these brave men and women who exemplify the best of our country. Their sacrifice and commitment to the duty to our nation can never be fully repaid, and I hope that when they visit our nation's monuments in Washington D.C., the gratitude and respect we have for them will truly be reflected.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking these veterans and their families for their exemplary dedication and service to this great nation. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the local communities, all of the volunteers, and Mr. John West and Ms. Teresa Galloway for their extensive work in organizing this Honor Flight. This trip would not have been possible without all the financial and emotional support of the people who have put in so much hard work and personal time to make sure this trip could be possible.

**HONORING COLONEL DOUGLAS J.
SCHWARTZ**

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Hoosier and a highly decorated American Airman.

Colonel Douglas J. Schwartz of the United States Air Force, retired on May 14, 2016 from his post as Commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing based at Grissom Air Reserve Base in Miami County, Indiana. The 434th Air

Refueling Wing is the largest KC–135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command.

Colonel Schwartz received his commission through Officer Training School in 1981 as a graduate from Purdue University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in management. He began pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona, and was assigned to the 325th Bomb Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington state. He transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1992, where he flew KC–135R Stratotankers with the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom Air Reserve Base. Prior to taking command at Grissom, Colonel Schwartz served as commander of the 927th Air Refueling Wing based at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.

Colonel Schwartz has numerous command and leadership assignments at the squadron, wing and numbered air force level including assistant chief pilot, chief of standardization and evaluation, operations officer, flight commander, detachment commander, group commander, vice commander, director of staff and wing commander. He is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours and has deployed in support of Operations Joint Endeavor, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, amongst others.

I sincerely thank Colonel Schwartz for his amazing leadership at Grissom over the last two years and wish him many clear skies ahead.

**TRIBUTE TO ELAINE AND VIRGIL
HILDEBRAND**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Elaine and Virgil Hildebrand of Hancock, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 23, 2016. Virgil and Elaine reside on their farm in Hancock.

Virgil and Elaine's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Bill, Janice, Joyce, and the late JoAnn truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, I know it is filled with happy memories and continued hope for their future years together.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more years of happiness. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

DR. JOHN THUSS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Thuss of Caldwell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Dr. Thuss for his dedication to the residents of